

National recognition of Pike County's educational accomplishments is particularly timely as the Senate commences debate on President Bush's Education program. The schools of Pike County have set standards that all school districts across this great nation should strive to emulate. Five years ago, Pike County School Corporation developed and implemented a district-wide plan to improve scores at all grade levels. They aggressively used standardized tests at all grade levels to ensure classroom standards were being met and student weaknesses were being addressed. Their efforts resulted in a significant increase in the percentage of students from Pike County meeting Indiana's academic standards. Also, the number of students attending college after high school graduation nearly doubled during the 1998-99 school year, the year that was used for the national study conducted by *Offspring Magazine*.

Using Title 1 funds, the Pike County School Corporation developed an early-childhood program that targeted preschool and kindergarten children. Using a corporation-developed assessment process, four-year-old students were placed into the county's three elementary schools for half-day pre-school classes, with five-year-olds invited to participate in extended-day kindergarten. This program has played an important role in the dramatic rise of Pike County ISTEP+ test scores at the third grade level.

Additionally, and of particular note, Pike County School Corporation was able to accomplish these goals while spending approximately \$6,500 per student year, one of the lowest spending rates per student in the country. As quoted from *Offspring magazine*, "the hallmark of a top-rated school district isn't necessarily how much money it has to spend, but how it spends the money it has."

This great recognition is a tribute to the superlative efforts of the members of the local school board, the school administration, teachers, and support staff of the PCSC. I congratulate Pike County School Corporation and the Pike County community, and wish them continued academic success.●

#### NALC FOOD DRIVE STATEMENT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, this year marks the ninth anniversary of "Stamp Out Hunger," the largest one-day food drive in the United States. I strongly commend and congratulate the National Association of Letter Carriers, NALC, for sponsoring this annual event, and marvel at its rapid expansion, beginning in only ten cities in 1992, it now spans over 10,000 cities and towns across our nation.

More than 1,500 NALC branches, including the California State Association of Letter Carriers in my home State, will participate in this year's "Stamp Out Hunger." On May 12, the second Saturday in May, residents

across the country will be asked to place boxes and bags of food next to their mailboxes, where postal workers will pick them up, sort them, and deliver them to community food banks, shelters and pantries.

The success of this program can be seen in the staggering volume of donations: more than 392 million pounds of food have been collected in the program's history. However, what impresses me most is the strong commitment of our nation's postal workers and citizens to end hunger. The only way we will put an end to poverty is to follow their example and take action, become involved, make a concerted effort. I urge all Americans to participate in "Stamp Out Hunger" on May 12 to put an end to the poverty that is plaguing far too many children, men and women in our communities and across our nation.●

#### EISLEBEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments on the 150th anniversary of the Eisleben Lutheran Church in Scott City, MO.

Since the first congregation of nineteen members gathered on April 30th 1848, Eisleben Lutheran Church has grown to become a part of Missouri history. Eisleben Lutheran Church's first house of worship was a log cabin built in the area now known as Scott City. The area surrounding the church was mostly wooded hills and large swamps which were impassable much of the year. In 1867 the second facility known as Rock Church was built.

Today the congregation worships in a church that was completed in 1913 using the stones from the original Rock Church. The congregation of the Eisleben Lutheran Church have maintained a long history of service to the Scott City community, as well as the international community by supporting missionary efforts all over the world.

Over the past 150 years Eisleben Lutheran Church has witnessed and been a part of many historical events. Their devotion to the preservation and continued growth of the church is commendable. I am pleased to join with the Scott City community and the State of Missouri in congratulating the congregation of the Eisleben Lutheran Church.●

#### WILSON H.S. STUDENTS EXCEL IN COMPETITION

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a group of students from Wilson High School in Florence, SC who recently participated in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals in Washington, D.C. April 21-23. They tested their knowledge of American constitutional government against 49 other student groups from across the country in a familiar format to those of us in the Senate, a congressional

hearing. During the simulated hearing, students testified as constitutional experts before a panel of judges. Fifteen students, led by their teacher Yvonne Rhodes, represented Wilson at the competition. They were: Lakisha Boston, Lynette Carr, Christine Chen, Rebecca Derrick, Ashunti Drummond, Elizabeth Fortnum, Albert Hayward, Anthony Henderson, Benjamin Ingram, Janny Liu, Christina Moss, Jason Owens, Anna Stewart, Tyler Thomas and Dheepa Varadarajan. I commend these students for their impressive performance in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program administered by the Center for Civic Education. Their interest in the foundation of our government is refreshing and will prepare them to become active, responsible citizens and community leaders.●

#### GARFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Garfield Middle School in Albuquerque, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary today, April 26. Built to serve Albuquerque's growing North Valley, the school first opened for the 1950-51 school year. First built with the intention of serving as an elementary school, Garfield actually became the fourth public junior high school to open in my hometown.

Mr. Walter McNutt was Garfield Middle School's first principal. It was under this distinguished man that I served as a public school teacher shortly after graduating from the University of New Mexico. I taught math and coached baseball at the school in the 1955-56 school year.

The Garfield Middle School's long-held mission has been to foster a sense of community among its students, parents and school staff as a means of boosting pupil achievement.

With a multi-cultural enrollment ranging over the years from 650-1,200 students, Garfield has earned a number of award-winning and nationally-recognized programs.

I am proud to also point out that Garfield is actively involved in a program that is close to my heart, Character Counts. The school is nationally recognized as having one of the finest Character Counts programs in the United States. At the school they teach the six pillars of good character: responsibility, respect, trustworthiness, fairness, citizenship, and caring.

I applaud Garfield Middle School for its accomplishments and as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary, we wish them much continued success in the future.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to